

REMARKS

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs 6 and 40 have been amended to recite the following features: a) the terminal ends of the carcass ply are axially outward and radially inward of the belt structure; b) the annular reinforcing strip layer at the edges of the belt structure layer are directly adjacent to the belt structure annular layer along the edges of the belt structure annular layer; and c) the annular reinforcing layer has terminal ends with one terminal end extending axially outward of the belt edges. All of these features are present in the original drawing, forming part of the original specification. One skilled in the art reading the original specification would have appreciated that at the time of filing the patent application, Applicant had possession of the invention as disclosed in the amended paragraphs.

Amendments to the Claims and New Claims

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite the following features: a) the terminal ends of the carcass ply are axially outward and radially inward of the belt structure; b) the annular reinforcing strip layer at the edges of the belt structure layer are directly adjacent to the belt structure annular layer along the edges of the belt structure annular layer; and c) the annular reinforcing layer has terminal ends with one terminal end extending axially outward of the belt edges. All of these features are present in the original drawing, forming part of the original specification. One skilled in the art reading the original specification would have appreciated that at the time of filing the patent application, Applicant had possession of the invention as now recited.

New claims 16 and 18 recite an elongation value for the cords in the annular reinforcing strip. Support for these claims is found in paragraph 46 of the specification.

New claims 17 and 19 recite the amount of axial extension past the belt edges as a percent of the width of the strip layer. Support for these claims is found in paragraph 47 of the specification.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

These rejections are obviated by the amendment to Claim 1, restoring the mistakenly deleted word "not".

Prior Art Rejections

In the Final Office Action, three Japanese references are relied upon as primary references in a series of 102 and 103 rejections. Each of the primary references are addressed below in regards to the amended claims.

JP 2000-1105

Claims 1-5 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Application 2000-1105 A and claims 7, 10-13, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application 2000-1105 A in view of Messerly (3,983,919).

JP 2000-1105 discloses a pneumatic tire wherein the edges of the belt reinforcing plys are either covered or wrapped by bands 10a and 10b. In comparison to Applicants claims, the only relevant bands of JP 2000-1105 are those which are radially inward of the belt edges, i.e. band 10a – the band that actually wraps about the belt ply ends. Claims 1 and 10 recite that the annular reinforcing strip layer has a width defined between terminal ends with one terminal end being axially outward of the belt edges. All of the bands of JP 2000-1105 that are radially inward of the belt edges have both terminal ends located axially inward of the belt edges, contrary to the recited invention. To unwrap the belt edges of JP 2000-1105 in a manner to duplicate the claims would be to destroy the explicit teachings of JP 2000-1105.

In regards to the 103 rejection adding Messerly, Messerly is silent about any belt edge strips and thus fails to overcome the noted deficiency of JP 2000-1105.

It is requested that the application of this reference to Applicants claims be reconsidered and the above rejections be withdrawn.

JP 2003-237315

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application 2003-237315 A and claims 5-7 and 10-13 have been rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application 2003-237315 A in view of Oare et al (5,368,082).

JP 2003-237315 discloses a reinforcing layer strip under the belt edges. However, in every disclosed application of the strip, the strip is located directly adjacent to the carcass plies of the tire, and spaced from the belt edges. In the present claims, the reinforcing strip layer is located directly adjacent to the belt edges, along the belt edges, i.e. there is no separation between the strip layer and the belt edges. Thus JP 2003-237315 fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Oare et al is added for its teachings of runflat and is silent about any belt edge strips, and thus fails to overcome the noted deficiency of JP 2003-237315.

It is requested that the application of this reference to Applicants claims be reconsidered and the above rejections be withdrawn.

JP 5-238208

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application 5-238208 A in view of Japanese Patent Application 2000-1105 A. Claims 4-7 and 10-13 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application 5-238208 A in view of Japanese Patent Application 2000-1105 A as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of Oare et al. (5,368,082).

In the rejection of claims 1-3 as presented in Applicant's prior amendment, JP 5-238208 is relied upon for teaching at least one reinforcing strip layer located under the belt edges. The sole reason for the combination of JP 2000-1105 was to provide support for an exemplary belt width to provide dimensions for the relative values taught by JP 5-238208. While this provided dimensions for comparison to those in Applicants claims, the current claims recite that the terminal ends of the carcass ply are axially outward and radially inward of the belt structure. JP 5-238208 teaches that when the carcass ply has such a structure, belt edge reinforcing strips are located radially outward of the belt edges, not radially inward of the belt edges. JP 5-238208 teaches that the location of the strips are moved radially inward of the belt edges when the carcass plies also terminate under the belt edges; the strips assist in securing the carcass ends under the belt edges.

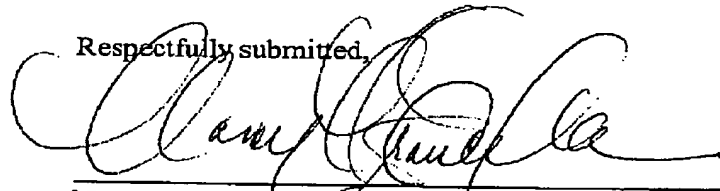
One skilled in the art reading JP 5-238208 when dealing with a tire having carcass plies that do *not* terminate under the belt edges would be taught to place any belt edge strips

radially outward of the belt edges, and not radially inward as recited. JP 2000-1105 and Oare et al fail to alter such teachings.

The combination of references fails to teach each and every claimed feature of Applicants amended claims. It is requested that the application of this reference to Applicants claims be reconsidered and the above rejections be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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